

HOUSTON (Tex.)

APR 10 1958

INFORMER Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP70-00058R000100050040-1

Wkly.: Tues. 6,137

Front Page Edit / Other Page Page

Date:

Russia's Lead In Scientists

CPYRGHT

There is a good deal of bemoaning these days about the lead which Russia has taken in the current production of scientists. Typical of this concern is the following recent editorial comment in The New York Times: "Our leadership in science and technology is threatened by the Soviet Union. Despite the advertisements of industrial corporations in which they implore technically trained men to apply for positions, we are falling behind, whereas the Soviet Union is meeting its needs. The number of Russian graduates in engineering alone rose from 30,000 in 1952 to 3,000 in 1955, but the number in this country decreased in the same period from 30,000 to 23,000. According to Allen Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Soviet Union will graduate in this decade 1,200,000 university students in the basic physical sciences, but we only 900,000."

The Times says: "The reason for the rapid Soviet ascent in science and technology has been obvious for many months. The Russian scientist is a privileged person, with an apartment in Moscow, a country house, a car and a chauffeur." Concerning the situation in America The Times says: "Our educational system is manifestly not adjusted to the demands of this technologic age, which is probably the main reason why the Soviet Union may outstrip us in science and technology."

It is interesting that The Times does not mention segregation as a factor in the supply of students in science and technology in this country. Not only has there been the lethargy and lack of adjustment in our educational system which The Times suggests, but one-tenth of the American population has been systematically excluded in varying degrees from training in science and technology. Can anybody doubt that, if the full gamut of educational opportunities in the United States had been open without regard to race or color, the resulting Negro scientists would have cut down to some extent Russia's lead? It also seems evident that the atmosphere of segregation puts a brake on general educational development. For instance, the greatest learning cannot go on in the atmosphere of rioting at the University of Alabama during the Autherine Lucy tragedy.